

WASHINGTON

CPYRGHT

By Walter Trohan

Scrapbook

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—John R. Steelman, labor mediator and long an adviser to President Truman, was watching a computer demonstration the other day. An expert was explaining how fast a computer can work.

"It would take 50 men working night and day for 200 years," he said, "to make the same mistake this machine can make in two seconds."

For what it's worth, the Capitol Hill weekly Roll Call says it will be "bottoms down instead of bottoms up," now that President Johnson has told his aids to keep at their desks and shun the cocktail circuit.

GEN. EARLE G. WHEELER, chief of staff of the army, witnessed the induction of a recruit on a recent inspection trip. The young man was being questioned by a sergeant: "Did you go to grammar school?"

"Yes sir," the recruit answered. "I also went thru high school, graduated from Knox college and took graduate study at Michigan and Harvard where I got my Ph. D."

The sergeant reached for a rubber stamp, inked it and stamped the questionnaire with one word, "Literate."

As a part of the new Moscow policy Comrade Andrei

Gromyko, in 1953, entertained the Turkish ambassador and ceremoniously declared: "Mr. Ambassador, I have the honor to inform you on behalf of my government, that the Soviet Union is herewith prepared to relinquish its claims to the Dardanelles." The Turkish ambassador smiled and countered with similar ceremoniousness: "Excellency, I have the honor to express the sincere thanks of my government in view of your generous concession. And in a similar manner, my government has commissioned me with delivering the declaration, that Turkey now is prepared to relinquish her ancient claims to Kronstadt and to the port of Leningrad."

SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER [R., Ariz.] tells of a group of five inveterate poker players in Arizona who had met weekly for years. At their last session one of the players toppled over with a fatal heart attack.

"What will we do?" moaned one of the players.

"Take out the deuces and treys," another suggested.

Allan W. Dulles, former director of the CIA, reports a Moscow father was being complimented by a neighbor on his three sons.

"You must be mighty proud of them," said the neighbor. "one of them a comrade doctor, another a comrade lawyer, and the third a comrade artist."

"Yes, they are fine people's men, but the one I am really proud of is the fourth boy, who is in America."

"He's an American capitalist!"

"Yes, indeed. He's unemployed and on relief and if it wasn't for the dollars he sends home we'd all starve."